

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

All the pending claims, namely claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-14, 16-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,436,896 (Anderson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,998,243 (Kao). Applicants respectfully believe that these claims are patentable over Anderson in view of Kao.

Kao discusses, at Column 4, Lines 22-53, receiving multiple voice signals at terminal adapters, mixing these signals, and sending these signals to further terminal adapters. At Column 3, Lines 20-33, Kao discusses that terminal adapters 16 and 22 act as teleconference bridges. At Column 4, Lines 22-53, Kao discusses that for the adapters 16 and 22, all of their outbound signals are mixed (“Mixer 36 produces the output signal ‘w+x’ at its output . . .” Lines 29-30; “In mixer 48, the ‘y’ signal is added to the ‘w+x’ signal to produce a signal ‘w+x+y’ which is shipped out . . .” Lines 35-37; “In terminal adapter 16, the ‘y_z’ signal is further mixed with signal ‘x’ at mixer 40 to produce signal ‘x_y_z’. This signal is transmitted . . .” Lines 48-50; “The ‘z’ signal is mixed with the ‘y’ signal in mixer 52 and transmitted . . .” Lines 45-47). The Examiner stated that “Kao further discloses a mixer within the terminal adapter that is used to combine signal ‘w’ and ‘x+y’ (unmixed) (column 4, lines 54-57).” This text, however, discusses incoming signals, not outgoing signals.

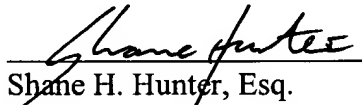
Kao fails to combine with Anderson to teach, disclose, or suggest at least the provisions for transmission of speech signals recited in independent claims 1, 6, 12, or 16. Claim 1 recites that a signal processing arrangement is configured to transmit speech signals toward terminals in an unmixed format. Claim 6 recites transmitting signals, that are similar to loudest selected telecommunications signals, toward terminals in an unmixed format. Claim 12 recites that an output device is configured to transmit second speech signals in an unmixed format toward terminals. Claim 16 recites a computer program product configured to cause a computer to transmit signals, that are similar to loudest selected telecommunications signals, toward terminals in an unmixed format. Kao’s discussion of receiving unmixed signals cited by the Examiner is irrelevant as each of independent claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 relate to transmission of unmixed signals. Kao clearly discusses that the signals transmitted from its terminal adapters 16 and 22

are mixed. Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 and claims 2-3, 7-8, 13-14, and 17-18 that depend from claims 1, 6, 12, and 16, respectively, are patentable over Anderson in view of Kao.

Kao also fails to combine with Anderson to teach, disclose, or suggest at least the provisions for transmission of telecommunication signals recited in independent claims 5, 10, or 20. Claim 5 recites a signal processing arrangement configured to determine L encoded signals, of N encoded speech signals, and to alter packet headers of the signals to transmit the packets toward appropriate terminals. Claim 10 recites transmitting second signals, that are similar to loudest selected telecommunications signals from first telecommunications signals, toward terminals, and altering headers of packets of at least some of the first signals to produce the second signals. Claim 20 recites a computer program product configured to cause a computer to transmit second signals, that are similar to loudest selected telecommunications signals from first telecommunications signals, toward terminals, and altering headers of packets of at least some of the first signals to produce the second signals. The Examiner asserted that Anderson discusses a conference bridge in which data is transmitted in ATM cells, and that it “is inherent that ATM cells have data portions and headers, in which the headers are altered so that data is transmitted to the appropriate terminal.” Office Action, pages 3-4. Anderson, however, specifically teaches away from altering packet headers. Anderson states that a “conference bridge according to this invention receives data in the form of packets, advantageously in ATM cells, and transmits data in the same form, without transforming the data within the conference bridge.” Column 2, Lines 50-53. Thus, Anderson teaches away from what is recited in independent claims 5, 10, and 20, respectively. Thus, claims 5, 10, and 20, and claims 7-8, and 11 that depend from claim 5 and 10, respectively, are patentable over Anderson in view of Kao.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-14, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,662,211 (Weller) in view of Kao. Applicants respectfully believe that these claims are patentable over Weller in view of Kao. The Examiner stated that Weller does not teach an arrangement configured to transmit signals toward terminals in an unmixed format, but that Kao does, and that it would have been obvious to combine Weller with Kao to arrive at claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-14, and 16-18. As discussed above, however, Kao does not teach, disclose, or suggest transmitting signals in an unmixed format, but at best receiving unmixed signals. For at least these reasons, Kao cannot be combined with Weller to arrive at the rejected claims, and thus claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-14, and 16-18 are patentable over Weller and Kao for at least these reasons.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.



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